

**CLAIMS**

Having thus described the systems and methods for intelligent routing, we claim the following:

- 1           1.       A method for intelligently routing hard-copy generation tasks,  
2 comprising the steps of:  
3           accessing imaging service data from a network connected computing device;  
4           accessing imaging data from at least one store via the network to generate at  
5 least one criterion; and  
6           presenting the means to access at least one hard-copy generation service  
7 capable of performing a particular hard-copy generation task matching the at least one  
8 criterion.
- 1           2.       The method of claim 1, wherein the presenting step comprises  
2 recommending at least one hard-copy generation service communicatively coupled via  
3 the network.
- 1           3.       The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 initiating a hard-copy generation request.
- 1           4.       The method of claim 1, wherein the step of accessing imaging service  
2 data comprises retrieving logic.
- 1           5.       The method of claim 1, wherein the step of accessing imaging service  
2 data comprises retrieving content descriptors.
- 1           6.       The method of claim 1, wherein the step of accessing imaging data  
2 comprises retrieving imaging data from the at least one store.
- 1           7.       The method of claim 1, wherein the step of accessing imaging data  
2 comprises retrieving a scaled-down version of a document.
- 1           8.       The method of claim 1, wherein the step of accessing imaging data  
2 comprises accessing imaging data through use of an imaging extension.

1           9.       The method of claim 2, wherein the step of recommending depends on  
2 both the imaging service and the imaging data.

1           10.      The method of claim 2, wherein the step of recommending comprises  
2 presenting a plurality of user selectable destinations.

1           11.      The method of claim 8, wherein the imaging extension comprises part  
2 of a user browser.

1           12.      The method of claim 8, wherein the imaging extension comprises logic  
2 received from the imaging service data.

1           13.      The method of claim 10, wherein the step of recommending further  
2 comprises presenting information describing the network location of each of the  
3 plurality of user selectable destinations.

1           14.      A method for intelligently routing a task, comprising the steps of:  
2           acquiring data regarding a plurality of services accessible to a network coupled  
3 user computing device;  
4           identifying a plurality of parameters that define a task;  
5           identifying the capabilities of at least one resource associated with each of the  
6 plurality of services;  
7           associating at least one decision point with each of the plurality of parameters;  
8 and  
9           selectively adjusting the at least one decision point such that when the system  
10 receives information reflective of data designated for a task, the decision point is used  
11 in formulating a recommended resource to perform the task.

1           15.      The method of claim 14, wherein the step of acquiring data comprises  
2 services suited for performing at least one hard-copy generation task.

1           16.      The method of claim 14, wherein the step of identifying a plurality of  
2 parameters comprises resource control inputs.

1 17. A system for recommending a network coupled resource, comprising:  
2 means for developing a knowledge base concerning the capabilities of  
3 available network coupled resources;  
4 means for associating at least one content descriptor with a designated task;  
5 means for developing logic responsive to the knowledge base;  
6 means for communicating the logic and the at least one descriptor to an  
7 application;  
8 means for extracting the at least one content descriptor from a document in a  
9 data store; and  
10 means for identifying a recommended network coupled resource suited to  
11 perform a designated data transformation.

1 18. The system of claim 17, wherein the knowledge base development  
2 means comprises information reflective of hard-copy generation services.

1 19. The system of claim 17, wherein the associating means comprises  
2 hard-copy generation device control inputs.

1 20. The system of claim 17, wherein the communicating means comprises  
2 a network.

1 21. The system of claim 17, wherein the extracting means comprises an  
2 imaging extension.

1 22. The system of claim 17, wherein the identifying means comprises logic  
2 communicated to a browser.

1 23. The system of claim 21, wherein the imaging extension comprises part  
2 of a browser.

1           24.     A method for assisting a user in selecting a hardcopy generation  
2 service, comprising the steps of:  
3           accessing imaging data;  
4           formulating at least one criterion reflective of the imaging data;  
5           accessing information reflective of a plurality of hardcopy generation services;  
6           using the at least one criterion to identify hardcopy generation services; and  
7           presenting the identified hardcopy generation services to the user.

1           25.     The method of claim 24, wherein the presenting step comprises  
2 recommending at least one hard-copy generation service.

1           26.     The method of claim 24, further comprising:  
2 initiating a hard-copy generation request.

1           27.     The method of claim 24, wherein the step of accessing imaging data  
2 comprises data from a personal imaging repository.

1           28.     The method of claim 24, wherein the step of accessing information  
2 comprises network coupled hard-copy generation services.

1           29.     The method of claim 28, wherein the hard-copy generation services are  
2 coupled via the wide area network commonly known as the Internet.

1           30.     The method of claim 28, wherein the hard-copy generation services are  
2 coupled via a local area network.

1           31.     The method of claim 24, wherein the at least one criterion identifies a  
2 parameter range.

1           32.     The method of claim 31, wherein the parameter comprises a measure  
2 of the size of a document.

1           33.     The method of claim 31, wherein the parameter comprises a measure  
2 of color information.

1           34.     The method of claim 26, further comprising:  
2           formulating a second criteria responsive to a user preference.

1           35.     The method of claim 34, further comprising:  
2           identifying at least one recommended service responsive to the user  
3 preference.